The Trial of Catra, Pearl's Ferocity, and 'Wild Adora'

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The Trial of Catra, Pearl's Ferocity, and 'Wild Adora'

by lefemmerouge

Summary

The Horde has been defeated and dehordification has begun. However, the trial of Catra is the first real test of the effectiveness of dehordification on the planet of Etheria. Will the tribunal members vote to convict? Or be swayed by unseen forces? Can Adora…and her newfound relationship survive the mental strain of painful memories and her new 'wild' attitude? Only time can tell…

Notes

As I envision it, each member of the tribunal is asking a question of the witnesses, not just one person. It's a bit like a 10-person interview. The mention of "Adora Eros" is in reference to my story, which is part of this series, entitled "Library in the Whispering Woods" where Bow's dads find out her full name. I tried to tie together other stories, within this series, into this chapter as well.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 2/8/25: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World with the same name today and yesterday. The text was updated, in terms of paragraphs and dialogue, and the changes made there were added here. This included dividing this fic into two chapters. If you want to read the original fic, without those changes, you can still do so, on Wattpad. I also changed this from General Audiences to Teen and Up, as I felt it was more accurate.

See the end of the work for more notes

Chapter 1: The Trial

The gavel hit the wooden desk with a bang. All 10 tribunal members took their seats. They were led by a man named Gerechtigkeit, who'd been elected by a majority vote of the tribunal per Article II, section J of The Compact of Etheria. The latter was signed by rulers of all the royal realms and city-states on Etheria. The court's creation was spelled out in Article II, section H, sub-section b of the same document.

> *"I, Gerechtigkeit, head of this tribunal, as elected by its members, call this trial to order. By the power vested in me by the Compact of Etheria, we shall be hearing testimony today on the case against Catra, formerly second-in-command of the Horde. Our trials against others in the former Horde command structure, such as Scorpia, Kyle, Rogelio, Lonnie, Grizzlor, and Octavia, have already concluded. The trial of Entrapta shall be held later. This trial is of momentous importance to dehordification on Etheria since Catra is the highest-ranking member of the former Horde that our court system has tried. The tribunal will now hear prosecution's opening statement. Mr. Frieden, you have the floor."*

Mr. Frieden cleared her throat and began speaking.

> *'My gratitude to Mr. Gerechtigkeit and the other honorable members of this tribunal. Today, I will make a solid case that Catra, second-in-command of the former Horde, is guilty of all the crimes listed in article II, section M, subsections a-h of The Compact of Etheria. She has not only collaborated with the Horde but aided and abetted an indiscriminate attack on a civilian town, conducted grievous injury of royalty, and engaged in kidnapping. She also participated in a conspiracy to steal historical artifacts, assisted in climate exploitation for devious ends, assaulted a fortified castle, and attempted to destroy a magical gateway.*

He continued and addressed the judge. "I'd like to call the first witness to the stand, Ms. Adora Eros, who is coming to us virtually from an undisclosed location. Please lay out, as plainly as you can, for this tribunal, your connection with the defendant."

Adora was nervous but she was completely prepared. Pearl had helped her as had everyone else she had talked with.

> *'Thank you for calling me to testify here today. Let me do my best to remember, because it has been some time since I've been on Etheria and even longer since I was part of the Horde. I was on track to become a Horde captain before I joined the glorious Rebellion. Since we were kids, me and Catra hung out together and stuck up for each other, while the Horde tried to manipulate us with their lies and propaganda. We teased each otherand she even slept at the foot of my bed many nights. We had a strong bond. Although I hadn't realized it, Catra fully comprehended this and accepted the evils of the Horde. When I tried to convince her to join the Rebellion, after finding the Sword of Protection, so we could become friends again, she refused. I tried to do the same other times and she said the same thing. She continued her quest to move higher up in the*

Horde command structure, trying to prove she was worthy. But it failed. She remained a committed collaborator of the Horde, with no shame whatsoever. If she had succeeded, she wouldn't be in front of this tribunal today!

Gerechtigkeit gave Adora a warning and told her to cease statements which speculated about the defendant. Mr. Frieden picked up the questioning.

'Shortly after you joined the Rebellion, you witnessed the indiscriminate attack on the civilian town of Thaymor, an independent city-state on Etheria, by the Horde. Luckily, you were able to stop the attack, thanks to the help of your newfound friends. I know it was some time ago, but if you could recall the incident in as much detail as possible, that would be appreciated.

It would be hard, but Adora was ready to explain what happened. It was the least she could do. It was part of the reason she was there.

'Certainly. I came to Thaymor with my new friends Bow and Glimmer, and enjoyed myself because there were no parties in the Fright Zone. Suddenly there were explosions everywhere. Glimmer and Bow fought off the invading Horde forces. I confronted Catra, who popped out of a tank. When I tried to convince her to come with me and join the Rebellion, she zapped me with a stun gun. She did so one or two more times. Luckily, Glimmer saved me, and I transformed into She-Ra in the nick of time. Thanks to that, I was able to drive back the Horde, while Catra faded into the smoke, and escaped. From time to time, I think about what happened there, and how I left a friend behind, but I remember my greater calling to be a part of the Rebellion, and rid the world of evil.

Mr. Frieden asked an open question. He knew what the answer would be. "Would any other witnesses like to confirm Ms. Eros' story about the attack on Thaymor? Princess Glimmer? Bow? Governor Pax? Any resident of Thaymor at the time of the attack?"

One person stepped forward. "Your honor, I would like to speak."

Gerechtigkeit did not mind having another witness and more testimony. "It is so granted, Governor Pax."

This local leader was grateful and began to explain his experience that day.

'Thank you. I can remember the attack like it was yesterday. We had one of our annual celebrations that day for the autumnal equinox. Suddenly, we heard explosions and everyone began running. Princess Glimmer and Bow helped citizens escape. As part of the city's guard then, before I became governor of the Republic of Thaymor, I ensured that citizens were safely evacuated, so they would be protected from the Horde. I could see, through my telescope, the destruction, and a cat-like person exiting a tank, fighting with a blonde-haired woman, then electrocuting her with some device. I also witnessed the arrival of She-Ra, who saved the day. We are forever grateful for her action and commemorate it every year as "She-Ra Day."

Mr. Frieden continued the questioning of Governor Pax. "Can you point out, for this tribunal, the 'cat-like person' and 'blonde-haired woman' that you described in your testimony?"

Pax pointed to Catra and Adora, confirming what the audience had thought. The trial continued. Mr. Frieden continued speaking again. "Let the record reflect that the witness has identified the 'cat-like person' as Catra and the 'blonde-haired woman' as Adora Eros. We would like to proceed in our questioning of Ms. Eros, Mr. Gerechtigkeit, if that is allowed."

He decided to accept this request. What would the harm be? "It is permitted, fellow tribunal member. Carry on."

Mr. Frieden started up questioning of Adora once more. "You have already described your injury at the hands of Catra and her role in the attack on Thaymor. Related to that, I'd like you to talk about another incident you were present for, the attack on the Salineas Sea-Gate, and Catra's role in that *travesty*."

Like before, this would be a challenge. But, she would try her best.

> *'Me, Glimmer, Bow, and Sea Hawk arrived in Salineas in an attempt to recruit Princess Mermista into the Princess Alliance. The place was deserted. Everyone had evacuated since the Sea-Gate was collapsing while the Horde kept attacking. Suddenly, a metal Horde ship started blasting the Sea-Gate. While everyone jumped into action, Catra scratched my face and hurt me while I attempted to fix the Sea-Gate. Due to the ingenious plan, of Glimmer and Sea Hawk, the Horde forces were routed, the Sea-Gate was fixed, and Salineas was saved…*

Mr. Frieden felt that this trial was going well and set groundwork for Catra's conviction. Everything was going as he had hoped. "Ms. Eros, your testimony is invaluable. Would *any* of the other witnesses like to offer their thoughts? Princess Glimmer? Bow? Sea Hawk? Princess Mermista? Other guards of Salineas?"

One of those he mentioned stepped forward. Friedan has already prepared this beforehand, so all these witnesses were in attendance, so they could have an accurate record of what happened. "Your honors, I'd like to offer my thoughts."

Gerechtigkeit replied quickly. "Sea Hawk, feel free."

Sea Hawk began explaining what happened, in his typical way.

> *'There was a grand battle on the choppy seas, the wind blowing in my hair. I rushed to save my sweet Mermista from the Horde's evil clutches. I knocked out fifty Horde solders, splashing into the bay. They fell off the boat like cannonballs fired from a ship. Glimmer helped me light my ship on fire, causing the Horde ship to blow up in a huge reddish-orange explosion which rocked the seas. We then came together and began singing a sea-shanty about how we were all friends, with Bow singing along… it was grand!*

Mermista, as per usual, knew that Sea Hawk was exaggerating. She had to correct it. "That's uh, *not* what happened at all. Urrrgh! I guess I'll have to set the record straight…*again*. Why does this happen all the time?"

Mr. Frieden welcomed her testimony the best he could. "Princess Mermista, tell the tribunal what *really* happened."

She began to explain, while she rolled her eyes at times. She was annoyed she had to correct what Sea Hawk said, and in a public place!

> *'Like Adora changed into this eight-foot warrior lady…me and Bow saved her from her deranged "friend," Catra, who had led the attack on the Sea-Gate…the magical gateway, as you're calling it…got repaired…Sea-Hawk did light the ship on fire…but like he didn't even knock out one person. The crew of five people were defeated and we won the day…I can't forget when She-Ra complemented me in the midst of battle…and yes, Bow and Sea Hawk did sing a sea shanty together…Sea Hawk is just so… annoying…and he often exaggerates.*

Gerechtigkeit asked an open question to all of those present. "Would anyone else like to speak about this incident?"

One voice rang out, one which no one else had expected to hear. "I would," the voice said.

Fear spread throughout the crowd. No one had expected her to show up. Some even thought that her presence could endanger the whole trial itself, possibly influencing the tribunal members to vote a different way. But the tribunal wasn't concerned by this guest. They could easily control her. There wouldn't be any funny business, not this time.

The tribunal almost spoke in unision. "Shadow Weaver? …you can testify…but we'll be watching you."

She began speaking and acting like she was the authority, even though she did not.

> *'I sent Catra to head a squad of soldiers, some of which were part of the team of former force-captain Adora, like Lonnie, Rogellio, and Kyle, along with another force captain, Scorpia. My shadow spies had seen them in Seaworthy, so I sent this squad to intercept them. I wanted to bring Adora back to the Fright Zone…where she belonged. If anyone deserves the blame for this, why pin it on Catra…it was my fault.*

The tribunal was not on-board with these claims. Gerechtigkeit responded. "Shadow Weaver, *you* are a monster! You attacked all those sorcerers in Mystacor. How can we trust anything you say?"

Shadow Weaver persisted. She would not be cowed. She hoped to convince everyone of her viewpoint. "My fine audience and assembled tribunal members, I have no reason to lie in this circumstance. I am chained up by the rules of this new compact you created. My powers are weak and almost non-existent."

Gerechtigkeit replied back to her. "Very well. Please put Shadow Weaver in the brig. Her testimony is *not needed* anymore."

Shadow Weaver wasn't about to give up. She kept talking and trying to put the blame on someone else. "Before you take me away, I'd just like to say that *I approved* of the

kidnapping of Bow and Princess Glimmer at the Princess Prom, and the capture of the Sword of Protection…but it was all Catra's idea…her initiative…although I took credit for it."

Gerechtigkeit would have none of this. He spoke sternly. "Bailiffs, escort her outside the courtroom." They followed his instruction and she was taken to the brig. She would not return for the rest of the trial.

Now that things had quieted down, Mr. Frieden wanted to continue the questioning, but of another witness. "We would like to call Princess Glimmer to the witness stand to talk about her kidnapping at the Princess Prom. Mr. Gerechtigkeit, is this allowed?"

He accepted the request, and added "It is, my fellow tribunal member."

Mr. Frieden began his questioning of Glimmer. "Princess Glimmer, please talk to the tribunal about the circumstances of your kidnapping from the Princess Prom hosted by Princess Frosta."

She was a bit nervous, but she was willing to give it a try.

> *'This is hard, but I'll do my best to recall what happened. Adora went as my plus-one. We met Bow there, who went with Perfuma...I felt nervous all night, thinking Bow was abandoning me for someone else, then heat bombs started going off, causing explosions. In the confusion, I went to find Bow, who'd been captured by two Horde soldiers masquerading as Frosta's guards. Scorpia knocked me out with poisons in her tail. When I awoke, I was in the Black Garnet chamber, chained up, with my energy drained by...Shadow Weaver. Everything else is fuzzy. I can attest that Catra was there, as was Scorpia.*

Mr. Frieden was grateful she had shared what she remembered. It would help them get the resolution which he believed Etheria deserved.

> *'Princess Glimmer, thank you for that testimony. We'd like to bring in Bow, the other person who was kidnapped by those Horde soldiers from the Princess Prom.*

He came up to the witness stand. He was happy to talk about what happened, even though Glimmer suffered a worse fate than him.

> "I'll tell you what I remember. I went looking for my cummerbund and for warmth in that cold castle of Princess Frosta. I first spotted Scorpia setting up heat bombs and holding the Sword of Protection. When I tried to tell the guards about the problem, they knocked me out. They were clearly Horde soldiers in disguise. From what Glimmer tells me, I was dragged along the ground by these Horde soldiers to their awaiting ship. I remember next was that I was sitting in some cell and learned the name of one of the people who captured me: Kyle. Apart from this, I can attest that Catra was at the Princess Prom and egging on Adora. She was an integral part of the kidnapping. She served as a distraction while the others did the dirty work.

Mr. Frieden again was glad there was more testimony. He added, "Thank you, Bow, for your testimony. Would anyone else like to talk about the kidnapping?" There was silence.

Apparently there were no other takers.

He began speaking again, moving onto another subject. They had to move the trial forward and get to the other charges. He brought forward Scorpia, who had served in the Horde.

'We'd like to move onto one of the most important topics which affected this whole planet: climate exploitation for devious ends. While the princesses, royalty, and everyone else here today felt and saw the effects, there are two people which have insider knowledge of what happened, according to our sources: Ms. Scorpia and Ms. Entrapta. We would like to start with Ms. Scorpia. She has already been charged, in an earlier trial, with unwarranted surveillance by spying on Princesses, along with assisting with the attack on Bright Moon, kidnapping, and stealing historical artifacts. Ms. Scorpia, please explain your involvement with this scheme and Catra's role.

Scorpia didn't want to say anything, but felt she had no choice. She hoped it could cause her sentence to be reduced. Even so, she made clear how much she hated these proceedings.

'Although I see this process as corrupt and distorted. I have no choice but to set the record straight about my wild cat. Yes, Catra had a role in what you call "climate exploitation," which froze over the Whispering Woods. But it was for a good end, to do it for the Horde, to disrupt the planet's magic so that the Horde could defeat the Rebellion. I surely helped in this effort, as did Catra, but Entrapta was key, apart from anyone else, and the whole thing was Ok'd by Hordak, the Supreme Leader of the Horde, may he rest in peace. This trial is all wrong and I won't stand for it! I will…

Scorpia, who was wearing handcuffs, was zapped with a refined metal static pike. It was twice as long as a usual spear. Bow had created it. Its tip delivered shocks throughout the nervous system of any creature affected by it. It was meant for the court bailiffs to shock anyone who got out of line. Bow hoped it would never be used, but in this case they believed it was justified.

As the bailiffs dragged her away, Perfuma came up to the witness stand. She declined to answer any questions and held a tablet. Entrapta didn't want to come to the court in person. Like Adora, she was willing to participate if she could do so virtually. Perfuma had helped Entrapta practice so she could sound believable in the courtroom. She continued to hold the tablet, allowing Entrapta to speak.

Mr. Frieden asked her the first question. "Ms. Entrapta. Ms. Scorpia has testified that you participated in weather manipulation of this planet. Is this true? We'd love to hear your thoughts."

While she could have done the same thing as Scorpia, she decided to be as honest as she could.

'Honored tribunal members and guests, I would like to respond to Scorpia's testimony. Yes, I was key in the manipulation of this planet's magic, hacking into the Black Garnet runestone, destroyed when I helped rig the implosion of the Fright Zone. Catra had a major role in this manipulation, apart from Hordak, who pushed us to continue the project. I will not condemn this trial. Although I am saddened by the death of Hordak,

due to the fact he was my lab partner on various experiments, I understand, now, the reason that the planet's population and rulers are angry at him and the Horde as a whole. With that being said, I am truly sorry for the actions I committed. I can't excuse them and will not attempt to do so. Rather, I'll try to move forward and become a better person. I would…

Mr. Frieden cut her off. He continued with the questioning. "Before you end your testimony today in front of this tribunal, we'd like you to hear you talk about your role in the conspiracy to steal historical artifacts."

'Sure. I didn't have a role in the kidnapping at the Princess Promthat has been spoken about by previous witnesses, where Catra, Scorpia, and others, took custody of the Sword of Protection and took two people with them (Bow and Glimmer). I was only a guest there and had not joined the Horde at the time. However, I did participate in the stealing of historical artifacts from the Northern Reach, a desolate region in the polar North of this planet, devoid of life, helping recover First Ones artifacts to help the Horde. Scorpia participated in this, as did Catra, both assisting me, although not always as enthusiastically as I conducted my experiments.

Gerechtigkeit spoke next, and added "Thank you, Entrapta, for your testimony. It shall be considered in your upcoming trial. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this process." She replied in-kind "It is my pleasure, your honor."

Perfuma got off the witness stand and sat back in the audience. The other princesses were surprised to see she had done this. They didn't expect Perfuma to be friends with someone like Entrapta, especially since most of the princesses had not forgiven her for what she had done with the Horde in the past. Even so, they couldn't hold anything against Perfuma for being friends with Entrapta.

Although Adora had been infected by a corrupted First Ones artifact in the Northern Reach, which was witnessed by Bow, Scorpia, Glimmer, and Sea Hawk, Catra herself had stolen an artifact from a very sacred place on the planet, once part of the now-defunct M.A.R.A. system. They called on Adora, again, for her testimony. "Ms. Eros, we would like to ask you about the time you and Catra were alone inside the Crystal Castle, as it is *our understanding* that she stole an object from the castle itself. Since the castle has since been destroyed, due to the actions by *certain* Horde members, your testimony is invaluable."

Adora was willing to tell him what happened, but it was still a while ago. And memory can be fickle. But she tried her best.

'I'll try to tell you everything I remember. I went inside the castle, wanting answers for how I could heal my friend Glimmer, who had been corrupted by Shadow Weaver, which had caused her to glitch. I wasn't getting any help, then suddenly I heard "unauthorized access detected." I spun around and saw Catra standing there. I protected her at the time, thinking she was still my friend. Clearly, I was wrong. She abandoned me and left as I fell down a deep, dark hole, I thought, to my death. I didn't die, luckily, but I surmise she must have taken an object out of the castle. There's no other reason that would have happened…

Mr. Frieden thanked her again for testifying, against her ex-friend. "Again, we appreciate you willingly giving your time here, even from your present location, many light-years away from this planet." He started on the next topic.

> *"There's one more topic we'd like to discuss today: the Battle of Bright Moon, undoubtedly an assault on a fortified castle. Any of our witnesses who wishes to speak on this topic is welcome, although we would like to hear from Queen Angella, Perfuma, or the guards of Bright Moon during the battle for their perspective.*

A certain animal stepped forward. He wanted to be heard. "Neigh! I would like to speak."

Gerechtigkeit was skeptical. "A talking horse? *How* can we trust you aren't an illusion?"

The horse spoke in his defense. "Adora, Bow, Glimmer, and the other princesses can vouch for me."

Mr. Frieden asked an open question to everyone else there. "Can any of you confirm he is a real being and not a mirage or trick?"

Glimmer spoke up. "I can, as the Princess of Bright Moon, soon-to-be Queen. The horse is named Swift Wind and he's so, so *annoying*. He's a bit of goof but let him speak anyway."

Mr. Frieden was willing to accept Swift Wind, with Glimmer vouching for him. He said "Sure, he can speak before the tribunal, although he cannot fit in the normal witness chair. Swift Wind, what can you recall about the battle?"

Swift Wind began to explain what he remembered. He wasn't sure about Catra either and supported the tribunal.

> *'Me, Bow, Glimmer, Adora, and the Bright Moon guards seemed like the only ones fighting against the Horde. We planned a bit, with the help of Queen Angella, one of her top advisers, Netossa, and Spinnerella. Adora felt useless but she was brought back into the fold by Bow and Glimmer…and we used the armory of weapons assembled by Glimmer. Adora transformed into She-Ra and everyone suited up for battle. We all did what we could to defend the castle, but they rushed it with laser blasts, Glimmer kept glitching, but we still destroyed some Horde bots. The battle seemed lost: Queen Angella almost got killed by a Horde bot, Glimmer had been affected after her time in the Fright Zone by some funky magic from Shadow Weaver. It seemed Catra and Scorpia, who led the forces, would defeat us, even with Princesses Spinnerella and Netossa on our side. In the nick of time, Frosta, Perfuma, Sea Hawk, and Mermista came in and saved the day, turning the tide of the battle. All the princesses held hands, and their powers went through the Sword of Protection, creating a rainbow wave which pushed back the Horde, causing their defeat. It was a glorious day!*

Mr. Frieden turned to the rest of those in the audience. He hoped to have more witnesses. Many had come to watch the proceedings. "Would anyone else like to speak on this?," he asked.

One person stepped forward. He began speaking. "I was a guard of the Bright Moon Castle on the day of the battle. I'd like to give my piece about what transpired."

This made Mr. Frieden glad. He was happy to hear an eyewitness account of someone who wasn't a princess or someone else important. "Your recollections are important to this trial. Say as much or little as you please."

The guard began speaking. He wanted to tell his piece.

'On that day, the sky looked dark, with reddish lightning striking everywhere. I did what I could to ensure that the citizens of the kingdom were protected, moving them to the underground caverns, an area not affected by the attack, as the castle suffered heavy damage during the battle. I was able to watch the battle through a telescope from the caverns. I saw Queen Angella fall after she was attacked by the Horde Bot, the deadly fight between Adora and Catra, and everything else that happened. Due to my distance from the fighting, I couldn't see as much detail as others who were involved in the action directly. That's what I can remember.

Mr. Frieden spoke once more. He had to keep the trial moving. "Before we conclude this part of the trial, testimony from Queen Angella, Perfuma, or any of the others involved at the battle would be welcome." One person stepped forward. It was someone everyone was familiar with, in more ways than one. "Your honor, I'd like to say something before the tribunal as a witness."

Gerechtigkeit spoke next, and added "It is allowed." The woman proceeded and began speaking. She wanted to tell her piece.

'Me, and my partner, Spinnerella, were some of the first ones to fight against the Horde, as Swift Wind has pointed out. Adora, who had transformed into She-Ra, had been injured and felt useless after the Horde forces almost captured her, putting her in pain with electrified ropes. I surrounded her, my partner, and Bow with an electric net as the Horde tanks aimed their cannons at us. The Castle has been damaged, with fires throughout, and the sky had been shrouded in darkness. Just then, the other princesses, first Mermista and Sea Hawk, then Perfuma, and finally Frosta, came in to save us, all of whom I can't thank enough. If that hadn't happened, we surely would have lost the battle.

Mr. Frieden asked another question. "What about Catra, Princess Netossa?" She answered the question.

'I saw Catra and Adora fighting at one point, Catra taunting Adora, after she was searching through the water for her shield…Adora told me later that they fought in the nearby rock outcroppings, in a deadly fight, as noted by the Bright Moon Castle guard… involving lots of scratches on Adora's face by Catra…provoking her…distracting her from the battle…but she recovered later…her magic flowed…the sky no longer was as dark…while the Moonstone had been restored…when we combined our powers…Catra was one of those defeated…as part of the Horde itself…and we won the day!

Mr. Frieden made an additional statement. "If anyone else would like to testify at this point, we are open to hearing them."

No one else replied to the request by the tribunal member. All that remained was the closing statement from the prosecution and another from Catra. Then the trial would come to an end, right theN and there. The bailiffs walked her up to the witness stand, while she chained up. They were ready for anything. Mr. Frieden gave closing remarks.

"As you have heard from Governor Pax, Ms. Eros, Mr. Bow, Princess Glimmer, Princess Mermista, Princess Netossa, Sea Hawk, and Swift Wind, along with Shadow Weaver, Scorpia, and Entrapta, the case is clear. Catra not only openly collaborated with the Horde, but aided and abetted the indiscriminate attack on a civilian town named Thaymor, grievously injured royalty, kidnapped said royalty, conspired to steal historical artifacts, and assisted in weather exploitation for devious ends. These same witnesses also noted how she attempted to destroy a magical gateway named the Salineas Sea-Gate and assaulted a fortified structure, Castle Bright Moon. While many of these crimes are intertwined with others, she has still committed all of them. I say she should be found guilty on all counts.

Gerechtigkeit followed up this statement, with one of his own. He directed it to Catra herself.

'Having listened to the following testimony and closing statement of Mr. Frieden of the prosecution, we'd like to hear from Catra herself. Although no one has offered to be her defense, due to the justifiable anger at the Horde on this planet, she still has the right to defend herself in the court from the charges brought against her. Catra, what is your comment on the above-named charges?

While she was in chains, Catra stood strong. She knew the court was illegitimate, in her view, but she wanted to make herself clear.

'They are completely correct. I willingly attacked Thaymor, injured royalty, engineered the kidnapping of Bow and Glimmer, and helped steal historical artifacts. I also assisted in weather exploitation for devious ends, as you call it, attempted to destroy the Salineas Sea-Gate, and assaulted the Castle Bright Moon. I did these all for one reason: Adora abandoned me, just like she abandoned all or you on this planet, leaving to some place that is undisclosed. I always felt close to Adora, as a friend, and person I admired…you could say I adored Adora…all my actions with the Horde were meant to prove my worthiness in the world, that I matter…I wanted to crush her and the little pipsqueak Rebellion, now codified in that awful Compact you speak of, to turn them to dust. She doesn't care about me and I don't care about her. I wanted to hurt her in the way she hurt me! We see past each other and that's totally fine with me. I want nothing more to do with a scoundrel like her or the rest of you. Someday, you will regret all of this. You'll see! No one can stop me, not even if you try.

Mr. Frieden was a bit surprised she openly admitted this. Even if she had plead not guilty, there was enough testimony to convict her. Catra surely knew that. Gerechtigkeit had the last word, for now.

'With that profound statement, it is time for the members of this tribunal to begin deliberations and make a decision on this case. We will return in 30 minutes.

Those crowded in the room began whispering to one another, chatting about Catra's admission of guilt and what she said about Adora. The other princesses didn't know what to think. Adora felt apprehensive. No one knew how the tribunal members would vote or what their sentence would be.

After all, The Compact of Etheria, which gave those charged with crimes the right to "defend themselves or someone to represent them from the planet itself" (Article II, section D), allowed judges to use "independent legal reasoning to make a decision" (Article II, section E), and stated that lengthy sentences could be applied in Etherian courts for those "who had committed heinous crimes, like former members of the Horde" (Article II, section L).

Catra, as a person formerly part of the Horde, could not "hold any position of power within the planet's royal realms or city-states" (Article III, section Q), and might be sent to a school for "re-conditioning" (Article III, section R, subsections a-b). There was a catch: sentences of former Horde members on the planet would depend on whether they recognize the errors of their past association and whether they agreed to "help rebuild the planet."

This meant that some would have community service as a "punishment for past transgressions" (Article III, section S, subsection a) or something more severe like death, which would be decided by the courts (Article III, section S, subsection b). This was conditioned by the fact that "retaliatory punishments" were prohibited (Article IV, section T).

At the same time, it was also influenced by the fact that the "word of rulers and their decrees have the force of law" for royal realms (Article I, section A), and that "traditional indigenous law and custom[s] remain significant" (Article I, section B). Such vagueness added many questions into the case itself and its conclusion.

The door slammed. The ten tribunal members walked out. They approached their seats. The bailiffs prepared their static pikes. Catra remained inside a cage with bars made through magic, courtesy of Angella and Glimmer, but engineered by Bow. Mr. Gerechtigkeit, the tribunal's head, read a statement:

"After considering the previous testimony and the final statement of the defendant, we have come to a conclusion about this case. We find the defendant, Catra, formerly second-in-command of the Horde, guilty on all counts. We sentence her to life imprisonment in the Northern Reach, which is in effect unless she accepts responsibility for her actions and works to make this planet a better place, renouncing her previous allegiance to the Horde. We feel that having her endure the effects of these crimes in person is more apt than death. This punishment is allowed under The Compact of Etheria. She is also, as per Article IIIArticle III, section Q, not allowed to hold any position of power on this planet. Even so, she will not be sent to a school for re-conditioning, allowing for integration back into society, as under Article III, section R, subsections a-b. We do not believe that is possible or workable. Our judgment falls under the authority granted by Article II, section L and Article III, section S, subsection b, while considering that 'retaliatory punishments' are prohibited, as noted in Article IV, section T.

Mr. Gerechtigkeit had one more statement to make:

> *'As the head of this tribunal, I declare that this case has ended and closed, since we have issued our verdict. Due to the lack of counsel for the defendant, this case will not be appealed to a higher court. The sentence is hereby executed. Bailiffs, please cuff the defendant and remove them from the courtroom.*

The bailiffs responded in unison. "Understood, your honor."

Catra hissed and growled, as she was marched out of the courtroom. Scorpia shouted, clearly worried, "they can't do this to you, wildcat!"

Chapter 2: The Aftermath

Chapter Summary

> When updating the original text on Squidge World, I decided to move this content into another chapter, as it provided a more easy division. Originally this was part of the same fic as chapter 1.

Chapter Notes

> Adora decompresses from a rough trial which is exhausting on a mental level and she wants to drink. Pearl isn't sure about this and tries to stop her, despite what she said before, and some tensions form, but dissipate later. Pearl drives them to a train station, they travel on a commuter train, Mimi drinks vodka out of plastic cups, and they celebrate together, as the strain of the trial fades away, with Adora wanting to return to the Beach House, while Lapis and Peri make a surprising declaration.

Back in Tokyo, Adora's phone clicked off. She didn't hear Catra solemnly declare "I love you, Adora," as the door was about to close. She missed that. Adora had heard enough.

Her fingers traced the rough edges of the shot glass. Only the day before she had helped fight off the so-called 'Angels' and an assassin attacking her two new friends, Mimi and Rin. The latter told Mimi she was going to the Asogi Consulting office, fielding calls with Teruki Maeno, a child of Yoki and the late Koki.

Mimi, a thin or gaunt woman with teenage looks, decided to stay in the apartment. She hoped to foster a friendship with Adora after their experiences the day before.

"Adora, would you like some vodka? I was about to pour myself some," Mimi asked.

Without a second thought, Adora replied. "After that mentally exhausting trial, I'd like to drink something, even *a small amount*."

Gulping down the alcohol, Pearl shrieked. She had enough of "wild Adora," declaring that she would never tolerate underage drinking, recalling the law in the country that only people over age 20 could drink such spirits.

Mimi laughed, reminding her that the law didn't specify whether it applied to foreigners. Adora undoubtedly fulfilled that as a person originally born on Eternia who'd lived most of her life in Etheria.

Adora scoffed. "Pearl, I appreciate your concern…but I am a new person who wants to leave the past behind and chart a new course in the future? Didn't you say that about yourself at one point?"

Grumbling, she realized that Adora had a point, even if she didn't like to admit it. "Fine. I did say I was a 'new Pearl' with 'no plan' and I got chased by a police car…when I didn't have a license…so maybe there are some parallels."

Adora clarified what she wanted. Being clear with Pearl was important. "You don't have to worry, Pearl. I only wanted *one shot glass*, then I'd like to go back to Beach City…to talk with Steven, Connie, and the other Gems."

Pearl pulled in Adora, hugging her intently, as she finished her glass of vodka. She put down the empty glass on the hard-wooden table. Both felt better about each other, their embrace calming down tensions between them.

Mimi drank her alcohol and had an idea to help them both. "Do you need transportation out of Tokyo? Lapis and Peri left this morning to visit two friends, they called Anthy and Utena, in Miura."

Adora waved her hand. She couldn't accept such an offer. "Thanks but... driving there would take many, many hours, right?"

Mimi smiled. She knew what could get them there faster. "We don't need to use that polluting form of transportation. We can use…commuter rail…with trains that travel 70 miles an hour or 110 kilometers per hour as we call it in Japan."

Adora thought she knew what Mimi meant. But she had to make sure. "Trains? We don't have many of those back where I live."

Mimi then began blabbing about their wonderful mass transit system. "Oh, yes, they are wonderful. There are track lines that go from the newly renovated Shinjuku Station to Sibuya, from there to Shinagawa Station, and onto Kawaski. After that, the train will pass through Kanagawa, Yokohama, Isogo, Kanazawa, and Yokosaka, to name a few cities. The trip will be about 46 miles, or 74 kilometers, taking less than 40 minutes."

Adora was impressed. She would *have loved* to see something like that back home. "Wow, trains run so fast here! For the most part, trains run where I live at 60 miles an hour, or 97 kilometers per hour…we'd love to take your high-speed rail!" Mimi grinned. She couldn't believe Adora was so excited...*about a train.*

But no matter. She loved seeing Adora smile. "Great, I'll drive you to the Shinjuku Station. Perhaps I'll go down to Miura *with you*."

Mimi slammed the door of Rin's penthouse apartment and locked it with a key. This was another indication, if you needed it, of her long-standing relationship with Rin. They didn't live together, but she did visit the place often, knowing the route to her place, and even storing some of her clothes there, something which Rin allowed.

She hopped into her car, ready to drive. This small K-class car could go a decent speed but had turbo chargers, cost little, and consumed very little fuel. Due to her short stature, the car fit her perfectly. She didn't mind the limited space.

Pearl, skilled at driving, offered to take them to the train station. Mimi agreed on the condition she could sit in the passenger seat and chat with her. Adora slunk into the backseat. The car zoomed off to the train station, with its speed surprising Mimi. Apparently, this Gem was a fast driver.

In no time at all, they reached the train station, parking in the designated spaces, thanks to Mimi serving as the navigator. Stepping out of the car, Adora felt a bit neglected. Mimi and Pearl continued chatting.

Walking through the grand columns of the station, Mimi offered to pay for their tickets. Since they would be traveling 74 kilometers it would come to 740 yen for the base fare (10 yen a KM for long distances) plus 4,000 yen for the commuter rail, coming to a total of 4,740 yen. That would be equivalent of about 44 DelMarva Dollars (DMD), still operating on a system like the archaic and outmoded U.S. Dollars.

If she wanted to pay for all their tickets, it would cost 14,220 yen, or about 131 DMD. Adora and Pearl felt a little guilty, so both offered to pitch in the money they had, which only totaled 44 DMD, enough for only *one* ticket. They promised to pay back Mimi. She insisted that it was her her treat and that she'd pay for their tickets.

Mimi earned an average salary of 5 million yen per year, more than women who worked in the country's top industries, who took in less than men due to the gender wage gap. Specifically, she earned about 96,154 yen a month, coming out to 801 yen per hour, working only 120 hours per month, lower than the average for Japan.

This seemed low, as it only translated to about 7.30 DMD an hour or a total of $46,020 a year. But, her investments in the wide-ranging Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) brought in an additional 4 million yen a year, raising her income up to 9 million a year, equivalent to 82,826 DMD.

As a result, she lived a comfortable bourgeois lifestyle, like Rin, in the upper echelon of Japan's service class, part of two-woman private investigative business, Asogi Consulting, but below the business class or royal families.

With this economic security, she felt fine with paying for their tickets. After all, she had higher-class status than Pearl or Adora even though Steven's dad, Greg, had gobs of money. The train sped forward not long after they got on.

While on the train, Mimi pulled out a small bottle of vodka and a plastic cup from her purse, pouring herself a glass. Since their trip was considered "long-distance," rules deemed eating and drinking acceptable. Neither Adora nor Pearl had ever seen someone drink as much alcohol as Mimi or Rin (at times)

Although she continued to test her limits on Earth, Mimi's behavior even unnerved Adora. Despite this, they sat together and chatted the whole way about their lives, experiences, and

whatnot.

Before they knew it, the train had arrived at their destination: Miurakaigan Station. Stepping out of the train and onto the train platform, they walked underneath a metal roof and past green-painted metal polls.

A loudspeaker blared in Japanese: "Welcome to Miurakaigan Station. There are two side platforms which serve northbound and southbound trains. Connections are available to bus lines and other forms of transportation. Please make sure to stand behind the yellow line and mind the gap between the station platform and train when boarding. Thank you and have a wonderful day!"

Rather than taking the bus down into Miura, where they would have seen fishing in the nearby harbor or people selling watermelons, but not daikons (Japanese radishes) as the latter wouldn't be in season until the winter, they walked into the country. Adora, who had been there before, remembered the route. She led the group.

Soon they approached the house. Anthy was tending the garden, with Chu-Chu on her shoulder. She greeted them. "Konnichi wa! Adora, I remember you from before, but I have never met your two friends. You came at the right time because Lapis and Peri just finished filming their most recent episode of 'Our Home Now.' I'm so excited for it! We can share with all those on the REZU network!"

She then whispered to Utena about greeting their guests. Utena smiled and agreed to do so.

"Utena, can you come outside for a second? I'd like you to greet Adora, a lavender-haired woman, and a peach-haired woman…and *welcome them* to our home."

The fusama opened. Utena stepped forward, with braided dark pink hair reaching her waist. This was a sea-change from her usual appearance. Uusally her long and wavy hair draped across the right side of her face, her shoulders, and part of her forehead.

This time she wore a flowing asparagus green dress, but not long enough to be a wedding dress. It had been made by Lapis and Peri from their blossoming hemp crop as an early summer gift. They promised to make something better for her birthday on December 29, when she'd turn 36 years old.

Her hair had been braided by Lapis and Peri, following the guidelines of the *Pretty Hair Stylist* and books from the Buddy Buddwick Public Library in Beach City which they'd they had checked out.

She showed them into the house, which seemed empty apart from Steven, Connie, and Greg resting, after moving around equipment, helping Lapis and Peri with their online talk show. As they stepped into the house's ima, they heard three figures step into the light, yelling "SURPRISE!"

Instead of going to work, Rin had decided to take the day off, praising her two new "comrades": Lapis and Peri. Standing between them, her dark green wavy hair draped across

the backs of these two gems, wearing a dark green suit with a tie, and glasses, her emerald green eyes stared at Mimi.

She hadn't expected something like this from her companion, but cheerfully, she accepted it. She guessed that Rin's humor, charming nature, flirting, and beauty convinced them to hold this event at Utena and Anthy's house.

"Mimi, this is my gift to you, to celebrate a day together, apart from the drudgery of Tokyo."

Mimi couldn't be happier to see this. She grinned.

"Thank you so much, Rin! This so nice. I hope you get something for my birthday on November 3rd, a day to love freedom and peace across this nation, and I promise to get you something for your birthday on August 11…maybe *we* can even climb to Mt. Fiji."

Rin *loved* that Mimi remembered her birthday. She was *the best* girlfriend she could ask for. "I'd like that. Thanks for remembering," she said, softly.

Hugging each other, they were joined by Lapis and Peri who embracing them. Everyone respected each other for who they are, whether immortal or Gem.

Not knowing Japanese, Pearl and Adora felt a bit out of place, despite cheery faces from Mimi, Rin, and their two fellow Gems. They found Greg, Steven, and Connie sleeping in another room on tatami mats curled around a pink lion.

Although Steven, Connie, and Greg were playfully poked by Pearl and Adora, in an attempt to wake them up, this wasn't the end for them. All three awoke with a start when a crepe, cream, and candy, taken out of Pearl's Gem, were thrown at their faces. "Pearl, Adora, why… did you do that?" Steven said, yawning.

Pearl snickered. She was firm. "Steven, Connie, Greg, and…Lion, we'd like to go home. If you don't cooperate, I'm gonna throw a carp at your face, squirt you with sunscreen, or throw sugar at you…that's not something you'd ever want."

Barely awake, Steven acceded to her demands. He grumbled. "Fine…Pearl. Don't you have anything else in that Gem that could help us?"

Thinking about it, she began listing everything inside her pearl. "I have an ace of clubs, a cheeto, a compass, a cellular phone, a carafe, Sea Pals, a seashell, the Gem sloop, a sticker, tissue paper, photos, and a private phone book."

Steven rolled his eyes. *Why* did she have that junk in her pearl? "That's a lot of useless stuff," he said, feeling a little more awake now.

Adora sneered at him. "Are you going to help us or not!" she shouted.

That really woke him up and everyone else. They did not know what Adora would do next. "…all right! You don't have to *point your sword* at our necks."

Adora tried to explain why she was doing this. It shouldn't be this hard for Steven and the others to understand. "Sorry I’m just tired."

Sighing, Steven got where she was coming from. "Let's at least tell the others," he said, as they all walked out of the room, although Connie, Greg, and Lion weren't completely awake, yet.

Walking down the hallway into the ima, they met Utena, Anthy, Lapis, Mimi, and Peri all laughing at Rin's jokes. Steven lamented that he, Connie, Greg, Pearl, and Adora were going back to Beach City.

Sadness permeated the room. "You don’t have to go yet! We were just about to play Shogi… you’ll miss it," Lapis remarked.

"No, that’s ok. I think we’ll skip it. See you back in Beach City," Steven replied.

Lapis knew she had to tell Steven what they would be doing. After looking over at Peri, she spoke to him directly. "Sounds good…but we’re not leaving."

Steven was surprised. He didn't expect that. "What do you mean?," he asked.

Lapis explained it to him. She could be perfectly clear. "We're going to live here with Utena and Anthy for a while. Beach City is nice and all, but it's so much calmer here…and they are our besties. But we'll come to visit sometimes!"

Peri added onto what her girlfriend has said. "Lapis is right. We don't hold *anything* against you or the Gems, but we would rather live our lives somewhere different, among people like us."

Steven solemnly remarked, "Well…Lapis…Peri…see you later then. Lion, please take us back to Beach City."

With a tear in his eye, Steven mounted Lion, followed by Pearl, Connie, and Adora, with Greg's head sticking out of magical animal's pocket dimension.

Lion opened a portal before them and jumped in. As the portal faded away, Lapis cried, but Peri calmed her down, reminding her that *everything would be OK*, as she rested her head upon her companion's lap, watching her lose to Utena in a game of Shogi while Mimi, Rin, Anthy, and Chu-Chu watched intently.

The events of the next day would shatter the tentative peace Steven assumed had been established after "changing" the Diamond overlords on Homeworld. His perception couldn't be more wrong…

End Notes

Gerechtigkeit means justice in German, Frieden means peace in German. This is inspired by the inquisitorial legal system where trial judges participate in fact-dinging by questioning witnesses, defense, prosecutors, and witnesses, even ordering certain forms of evidence to be examined if found inadequate. I also incorporated elements of the French system where the judge can question witnesses, interrogate subjects, or even order searches, as part of their role to gather facts, although the prosecution and defense may request a judge to act, appealing the judge's decisions. Not a perfect fit here, but it works. The static pike is modeled after the Geonosian static pike/picador's speak/static pike noted on the Wookieepedia as having "an electrically charged tip and elongated the weapon to twice the length of the spear…the charged tip could be set to deliver shocks to a creature's nervous system, or to kill them outright. An anodized shaft and insulated grip ensured the picadors themselves were not accidentally shocked by their own weapons. Additionally, the static pike was balanced, allowing the wielder to throw it like a spear."

I used calculator soup, and DuckDuckGo searches, to calculate the exact time and distance, which I integrated into the story. For the prices of trains, I used DuckDuckGo to translate Japanese Yen to U.S. Dollars on data from November 22. Other conversions were done with data on November 23. The part about Mimi pouring vodka into a plastic cup is based off an actual experience I had on a train of a lady literally taking plastic cups out of her purse and pouring wine into them! This was on a train in the Mid-Atlantic region, but the same principle can apply here. I similarly based the message on the train platform on my experiences on messages I have heard from stations in the a metropolitan area with over 6.3 million inhabitants. I cannot confirm that the ones in Japan will be like this, but I would think there may be some similarities. The page of Utena Tenjou on the Utena wiki, Rin Asogi and Mimi on the Mnemosyne wiki were helpful later in this story.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!